

3. (Three Times Amended) The therapeutic composition of claim 1, wherein said dermal sheath tissue or cell is derived from the lower portion of a hair follicle.

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4. (Twice Amended) The therapeutic composition of claim 3, wherein said dermal sheath tissue or cell is derived from a lower third of said hair follicle.

5. (Twice Amended) The therapeutic composition of claim 3, wherein said dermal sheath tissue or said cell is derived from a segment or ring of a combination of follicle/tissue cells.

6. (Three Times Amended) The gene therapy vehicle of claim 2, which is engineered by recombinant techniques so as to include at least one insertion site into which at least one selected gene is be placed.

7. (Three Times Amended) The gene therapy vehicle of claim 6, wherein said selected gene is inserted into said gene therapy vehicle so that the expression of said selected gene results in the provision of the corresponding protein product.

8. (Twice Amended) The gene therapy vehicle of claim 7, wherein said vehicle is provided with multiple insertion sites to carry multiple genes and wherein when said genes are expressed said gene therapy vehicle provides for the delivery of multiple proteins.

11. (Three Times Amended) The gene therapy vehicle of claim 2, wherein said selected gene for insertion is inserted in frame with the genome of the gene therapy vehicle so as to provide for correct expression of said selected gene.

12. (Three Times Amended) The gene therapy vehicle of claim 2, further comprising a promoter wherein said selected gene is under the transcriptional control of said promoter.

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13. (Three Times Amended) The gene therapy vehicle of claim 12, wherein said promoter is an inducible promoter.

14. (Three Times Amended) The gene therapy vehicle of claim 12, wherein said promoter is a constitutive promoter.

15. (Twice Amended) A vector comprising the gene therapy vehicle of claim 2 wherein said vector further comprises

(i) at least one insertion site for at least one selected gene, or functional fragment thereof, and

(ii) other expression control elements for ensuring that once the vector infects or penetrates said tissue and/or cells of said gene therapy vehicle, expression of said selected gene can take place.

16. (Twice Amended) A therapeutic composition comprising a carrier and the gene therapy vehicle of claim 2.

17. (Twice Amended) The therapeutic composition of claim 16, wherein said composition has anti-bacterial properties.

18. (Twice Amended) The therapeutic composition of claim 16, wherein said composition has anti-septic properties.

19. (Three Times Amended) The therapeutic composition of claim 16, wherein said composition further comprises growth promoting additives.

20. (Three Times Amended) The therapeutic composition of claim 16, wherein said composition further comprises at least one anaesthetic.

21. (Three times Amended) The therapeutic composition of claim 16, for topical application wherein said therapeutic composition is provided in a suitable carrier solution, gel, cream, or emollient.

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22. (Three Times Amended) The therapeutic composition of claim 16, wherein said therapeutic composition comprises a carrier solution as said carrier.

23. (Three Times Amended) A therapeutic appliance comprising the therapeutic composition of claim 16, wherein said carrier is incorporated therein, and/or attached thereto, a plaster or bandage.

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25. (Three Times Amended) The gene therapy vehicle of claim 24, which acts as a wound healing system.

26. (Three Times Amended) A wound healing system comprising a matrix material having incorporated therein, and/or attached thereto, the gene therapy vehicle of claim 24.

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28. (Three Times Amended) The wound healing system of claim 26, wherein said matrix material comprises collagenous gels or lattices constructed from reconstituted collagen.

29. (Three Times Amended) The wound healing system of claim 28, wherein said matrix material comprises components from an extra cellular matrix.

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31. (Three Times Amended) The wound healing system of claim 30, for treatment of acute, and/or chronic, and/or minor, and/or severe, wound healing.

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34. (Three Times Amended) The wound healing system of claim 33, wherein one of said cell types, in addition to said dermal sheath tissue, and/or said cell derived therefrom, comprises dermal papilla tissue.

36. (Three Times Amended) The therapeutic composition of claim 34, wherein one of said cell types, in addition to said dermal sheath tissue, and/or said cell derived therefrom, comprises dermal papilla tissue.